THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No. Sir.

Reception of Signals from Insat

4519. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether WPC wing of his Ministry has amended the rules thereby allowing reception of signals directly from INSAT 1 B and also introduced licensing provisions for TVs and VCRs to receive such signals;

(b) what is the number of applications received for such licences since the Introduction of the amendment and the number of licences issued to the manufacturers and users separately;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in isseuing licences to all the applicants; and

(d) whether some complaints have been received to the effect that the licence issuing authorities harass the applicants by adopting delaying tactics and if so, what action Government have taken to streamline the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, presently the reception of signals from Indian domestic satellites (INSAT) only is permitted; after obtaining necessary licence.

(b) to (d) The Department of Telecommunications has decided that operating licences for TV or VCR sets used or capable of being used for reception of the television programme direct from INSAT will be issued by the concerned Divisional Engineer Telegraph/Telecom, District Manager/General Manager Telephones. The possession licence or dealer licence are to be issued by the concerned General Manager Telecom/Telephones. The details pertaining to item No. (b), (c) & (d) are being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Contract for Mahanadi Offshore Oil Exploration

4520. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a contract for oil exploration in the Mahanadi offshore in the Bay of Bengal has recently been signed;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the contract is likely to be implemetend; and

(d) What is the approximate amount involved in off shore dirilling in the above area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) A production sharing contract for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in Mahanadi offshore block MN-OS-I was signed on 18.4.1988 between Government of India and Oil India Ltd. and Chevron International Ltd. & Texaco Exploration India Inc. The salient features of the contract are ;

1. Foreign oil company will explore for Petroleum at its own risk and cost.

2. If there is a commercial discovery, OIL will have the option to participate forty per cent in development and production of the discovery.

3. If OIL decides to participate it will contribute forty per cent of development and production costs and remaining sixty per cent will be borne by the foreign oil company.

4. OIL will be entitled to the share of petroleum produced corresponding to its participation.

5. The foreign oil company's share of oil will be available to the Government at international market price till India reaches self-sufficiency.

6. After recovery of costs, the contractor willshare petroleum with the Government on sliding scale basis. Government's share of petroleumwill increase as the project economics improves.

7. The contractor will pay tax at the rate of fifty per cent on its profits.

8. OIL will not contribute to exploration costs but it will be associated with the foreign company's work right from the beginning.

9. The entire data acquired by the foreign company will be available to OIL.

10. The assets acquired for permanent use in petroleum operations would become OIL's property once the cost revovery for such assets is claimed by the foreign oil company without any further payment by OIL.

The foreign oil company has already started implementation of the contract. More than 475 kms. of seismic data has been acquired by the foreign oil company in June, 1988.

The foreign oil company will explore for oil/gas at its own risk and cost. OIL will not make any contribution until a commercial discovery of petroleum is made and OIL exercise the option to participate in the development and production of such discovery.

Constitution of Telephone advisory committees

4521. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revive the old practice